6334 W. 80th St.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90045
January 14, 1975

The Honorable John Krebs
435 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kerbs:

I am writing at the suggestion of Mr. Holland in your local office in Fresno. I spoke with him for some time this morning regarding Mineral King and the problem one of your constituents is having with the Forest Service there. Mrs. Barboni lives in Visalia and has an interest in a cabin at Mineral King. She was informed in December that the Forest Service will cancel the lease on her cabin site after the coming summer, and she has until January 27 to appeal this decision. Mrs. Barboni is getting on in years and has high blood pressure and has not been able to do much, so I am trying to give her some help, as I feel this decision by the Forest Service is totally unfair and discriminatory.

To understand the situation between the Forest Service and the cabin owners, you really should have some basic information about the Mineral King controversy, which has been simmering for about 10 years now. Mr. Holland asked me to send you a sort of summary of the situation, which I am enclosing. The recent decisions of the Forest Service in the management of Mineral King are truly reprehensible. In spite of ever larger numbers of campers coming there, one whole portion of the valley which used to contain primitive camp sites has been closed off with no camping allowed and a chain across the road. Other camps have been designated for picnicking only, although few people come to such a remote area as Mineral King for picnicking. Camping has been restricted in the other camp ground, with a limit on the number of cars and families in each camp. And the parking situation is horrendous. All of the wide road shoulders where fishermen and hikers used to park have been blocked off with boulders and logs and people are fined $15 if they do find a place beside the road. This is not done anywhere else on the Mineral King road except in the valley itself. I feel the situation is even dangerous, as in most places there is not even enough room for a disabled car to get off the road. Thus parking is restricted to two parking lots on Forest Service land and a small area on the site of the old store-post office which is now owned by Disney. There are rumors that even that area will be off-limits for public parking this coming summer. In the two Forest Service parking lots, parking is restricted to a period of 7 days, which truly does not serve the needs of the public. Most of the people who park there are back-packers who leave their cars while they go into the back country of Sequoia National Park. Mineral King is a trail head for a number of trails into the back country. Often back-pack hikes take longer than 7 days, yet the Forest Service has made no effort to accommodate these people. There is actually ample space in the valley which could be used for parking without damaging the ecology of the area, yet the Forest Service finds it necessary to use Mrs. Barboni's cabin site for that purpose

The situation is one incongruity on top of another. The Forest Service has blocked off parking spaces, but it says it needs more parking spaces. It has closed camp grounds because of alleged over-use and pollution, yet it is proposing to have built a massive year-round resort complex which will cause untold damage and pollution to the fragile ecology of the valley. It says it needs the space where the Barboni cabin stands to expand a parking lot, yet the cabin stands to expand a parking lot, yet the cabin is so tiny the space would probably only accommodate 6 to 8 additional cars. Most of the other cabins at Mineral King are on a year-to-year lease until the Forest Service has a higher need for the land, yet the Forest Service needs to demolish the Barboni cabin.

I feel this is a case of the Forest Service harrassing a woman who is unable to defend her own rights. I urge that you contact Mr. John Leasure, Supervisor of Sequoia National Forest, 900 W. Grand, Porterville, Ca. 93721 and request that he

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rescind this unfair decision. I realize the time is short, but your participation is important. The Forest Service pays little attention to individuals, but it does pay attention to Congressmen. I urge your prompt action. And do plan to see the area for yourself next summer. I am sure you will be welcome at the Barboni cabin.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Richard Koch

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